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Thursday, May 16, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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Obama sacks tax chief over scandal



"I am angry about the IRS misconduct"

WASHINGTON - An angry President Barack Obama said yesterday that the "misconduct" detailed in a report about the Internal Revenue Service's handling of requests from conservative groups is "inexcusable."

"Americans have a right to be angry about it, and I am angry about it," he said.

In the wake of the uproar, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew requested -- and has accepted -- the resignation of tax agency chief Steven Miller, according to Obama.

Mr. Miller is scheduled to testify on Friday before the House Ways and Means Committee in the first of a series of hearings on the I.R.S. targeting scandal.

The president also said his administration will work to enact "new safeguards to make sure that this kind of behavior cannot happen again."

Ahead of a public hearing on Friday with Mr. Miller, the bipartisan leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee requested all I.R.S. documents on the targeting of conservative organizations. Mr. Miller met privately with Senator Max Baucus of Montana, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, as four Republican senators, including the top two leaders, demanded his resignation.

Earlier yesterday, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.

warned top officials at the Internal Revenue Service that criminal laws on false statements could come into play in a Justice Department investigation on the agency's targeting of conservative groups applying for tax-exempt status.

Appearing at a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Holder said the investigation would examine whether groups of individuals had their civil rights criminally violated and whether statutes governing I.R.S. conduct were violated.

White House releases Benghazi emails

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House yesterday released 100 pages of emails designed to quell a furor about disputed talking points framed for top officials following the attack on the US mission in Benghazi.

The release of the documents was an apparent attempt to defuse Republican complaints that the White House initially blamed the attack, which killed four Americans, on a spontaneous protest rather

The correspondence appears to show that the CIA, and not senior White House and State Department officials,

This past week the Aruba Customs held the 35th Conference of Customs and Immigration for the Caribbean region. The conference was held in the Westin Ballroom and welcomed participants from over 35 countries.

Aruba Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber during the conference emphasized the importance of the service of Customs Officers. 'Customs Officers,' he said, 'serve our visitors directly immediately upon their arrival at the airport. This is both those who come by air and those who



arrive by the cruise lines.

The Minister explained that the Customs Officer's function is not only to provide security but also to serve as an ambassador of the country. Hence, they form an integral part of our tourism during the arrival and departure of our visitors. It is important for Customs Officers to be conscious of the fact that their work is more than to control what enters the island, but also on their leadership role as ambassadors, according to the Minister.

One of the features that

make a destination stand out is the quality of the service it renders to people who come to visit. According to the Minister, the Aruba airport is on its way to opening a gateway to the European market which will provide opportunities for Aruba to receive even more tourists from European countries.

The Minister congratulated the Aruba Customs and Immigration on a successful conference, and expressed words of praise for their excellent contribution to Aruba's flourishing tourism.

WHouse backs new press protection amid storm

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House yesterday backed legislation to strengthen journalists' rights to protect sources, amid a growing firestorm over the government's seizure of reporters' phone logs.

President Barack Obama contacted lawmakers to ask that a so-called media shield bill be brought forward, his spokesman said, as criticism grew over the secret collection of the telephone records of the Associated Press.

"The president has long supported media shield legislation in the Senate, during the 2008 campaign, and as

president," White House spokesman Jay Carney said, adding that Obama had spoken directly to Senator Charles Schumer.

Schumer, meanwhile, confirmed that he would reintroduce the measure, which would require prosecutors to convince a judge that information being sought would "prevent or mitigate an act of terrorism or harm to national security."

The senior lawmaker said the law "would balance national security needs against the public's right to the free flow of information."

Continued on page 6

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Aruba Police Force says goodbye to Mrs. R. de Cuba



sion. During a luncheon, organized by her colleagues, Police Chief A.E. Richardson personally bestowed on Mrs. de Cuba a parting gift from the Police Department, while her colleagues also showered her with personal gifts.

Mrs. de Cuba, better known as Lia, or as her colleagues call her 'Tanchi Lia' was an exemplary worker, always ready to give a helping hand whenever needed.

'Tanchi Lia' began her career at the Santa Cruz Offices of the Police Department, where she worked in the Operational Section. Following that, she was promoted to the department of Staff of Police Chief, where

she worked as Assistant Administrative Executive. Prior to her retirement, she was posted to the Personal & Organization Department.

The Aruba Police Force and 'Tanchi Lia's' colleagues wish her all the best and many blessings during her retirement.

Recently, Mrs. Rosa de Cuba said farewell to her colleagues of the Aruba Police Department; she is now enjoying a much deserved pen-

V Seminar of the Dutch Caribbean Libraries taking place in Curacao

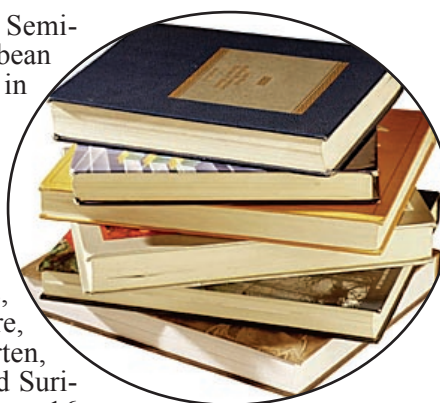
WILLEMSTAD -- V Seminar of the Dutch Caribbean Libraries taking place in Curacao

The V seminar is where professionals from the field of library and information centers of all Dutch Caribbean countries, namely Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius and Suriname, meet from 13 to 16 May, in Curacao.

The platform of Dutch Caribbean Libraries is a network of library professionals and information specialists in the Dutch Caribbean, who seeks to fulfill the need for more contact and coordination between them, locally,

regionally and internationally. It is an important opportunity for contact with colleagues from informative and research institutions.

This seminar is dedicated to the ABCD automation program and the possibility to start a formal association.



Policy Discussion External Relations between the Departments of Exterior Relations of the Dutch Kingdom

ORANJESTAD – On May 7 and 8, Aruba attended the general Policy Discussion External Relations between the directors of the Exterior Relations Departments of Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten and the Legal Counsel at the International Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dutch Kingdom.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Andy Lee (Director DBB Aruba), Mr. Arthur Kibbelaar (Director DBB Curacao), Mrs. Khalila Peters (Deputy Director DBB St. Maarten), Mr. Erno Labega (counterpart SG AZ Sint Maarten), Mr. Nout van Woudenberg (Legal Counselor at the International Law Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dutch Kingdom) and Mr. Peter Davidse (DBB, Aruba. DBB stands for 'Dienst Buiten-



landse Betrekkingen', or Foreign Affairs Services.

The topics discussed during the meeting were of general issues related to the foreign relations management of the Dutch kingdom. A number of actual cases were deliberated upon as well as the foreign affair management structure within the Kingdom. Other topics dis-

cussed were treaties, regional and international organizations and foreign relations in the Western Hemisphere, particularly the Caribbean

Photo shows Nout van Woudenberg, Arthur Kibbelaar, Andy Lee, Peter Davidse, Khalila Peters, and Erno Labega during the meeting.

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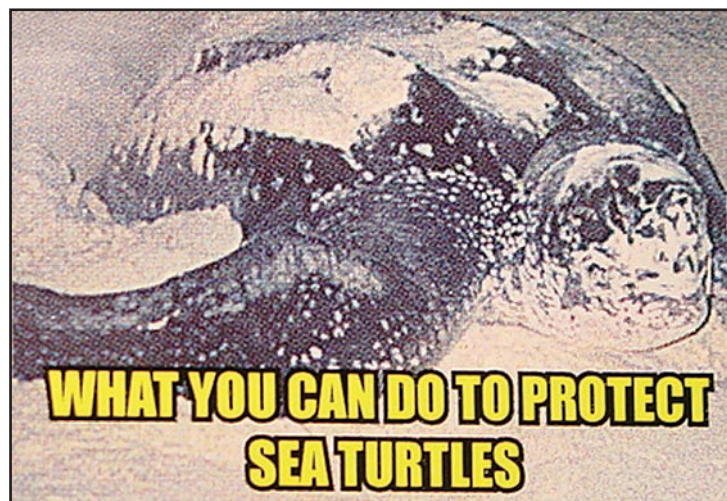
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TurtugAruba ready for 3rd Garnier Beach Clean up



Since its first beach clean-up in 2011, Mediocosmetics, representatives on Aruba of the famous Garnier, hair care and skin care products, pledged to donate 25 Aruban cents for each empty Garnier empty container gathered during the clean-up. The TurtugAruba team announced that they are ready for this year's clean-up, coming up this Sunday, May 19, with a team of 25 volunteers.

In 1980, Aruba enacted a law that protects turtle nests. In 1995, a law was introduced prohibiting the slaughter of all turtles. In 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was developed on Aruba and published under the auspices of WIDECAST and the UN Caribbean Environment Program. With this action plan as a guideline, a group of volunteers has worked ever since on the protection and

conservation of sea turtles on Aruba by monitoring nesting beaches, registering turtle sightings, etc. In September 2003, the volunteers got organized and founded the TurtugAruba.

TurtugAruba is the local foundation on Aruba that protects the sea turtles in and around the island. They are a nonprofit organization consisting of a board, a field coordinator and about 25 volunteers. TurtugAruba is a member of the WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle) Conservation Network, the regional network that includes more than 40 different Caribbean States and territories. Furthermore, Aruba is a member state to the CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) Convention and signed the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and

Conservation of Sea Turtles.

The annual activities of TurtugAruba are:

- Education and public awareness through various informative lectures to different groups
- Monitoring fieldwork, protection and data collecting. The foundation controls the beaches around the island during the nesting season. They control the Eagle Beach every night while the other beaches are controlled early in the morning.

- Liaising with Government and local NGOs and participation in local events. TurtugAruba is a member of the AHATA Environmental Committee and works closely with other foundations such as Stimaruba, Fanapa, Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation, Rainbow Warriors, Aruba Bird-life Conservation and Arikok National Park.

- Supporting international contacts (e.g. WIDECAST, IUCN) Every year members of TurtugAruba attend the International Annual Symposium on Sea Turtles Conservation and Biology.

- Generate funding. TurtugAruba needs funds to continue with its job protecting sea turtles.

If you wish to help the conservation of Sea Turtles in Aruba, please make a donation to: TurtugAruba
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Tourism growth figures for first 4 months of 2013 are 4.3%

ORANJESTAD -- According to the statistics just released, while showing a slight drop, tourism figures for the first 4 months of 2013 show an increase of 4.3%, which is positive when compared to 2012.

During the month of April a drop of 2.51% was noted compared to April of the previous year. This, they contribute, to the fall primarily of the Venezuelan market. The Venezuelan market fell by 21.74% compared to April 2012. Presidential elections and a sluggish Holy Week were among the factors for the drop.

However, on the other hand, the overall results for 2013 up to the present moment are positive with a growth of 4.3% in the amount of visitors. Hotels are also reflecting the same kind of growth for the first 4 months of 2013. Their occupancies have increased to 1.2% of 80.3% to 81.5%; ADR (Average Daily Rate - statistical unit often used in the lodging industry. The number represents the average rental income per paid occupied room in a given time period) has increased by 2% of US\$240.90 to 2012 to US\$245.68 to 2013. The RevPar (revenue per avail-

able room) also increased by 3.5 of US\$193.43 to US\$200.28.

Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber has indicated that they will continue working towards improving the quality of our tourism even more.

Now that Aruba has three local airlines, the possibilities are even more promising, especially from the Latin American markets such as Brazil.

At the same time, Cruise tourism results are also very positive. This year, for example, Aruba will not have a low cruise season. Over 100 thousand cruise visitors are expected to visit. We can expect a record number of 700 thousand visitors overall. This represents an additional income for our economy of 37 million Florins based on a study conducted by the University of Aruba. They estimate that every cruise visitor spends an average of US\$170 during their visit.

According to the Minister of Tourism, the outlook of our tourism continues to be positive, and as we continue to embrace the cooperation of our partners and work closely together, our tourism industry will continue to flourish.




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RBC Royal Bank's 4th edition of Art Rules Aruba celebrates 10 years of Papiamento by re-introducing Rap & Poetry to the program



Breis

The number one international arts program that brings international teachers from different art disciplines to Aruba to teach about 250 young kids is returning with the workshop Rap & Poetry.

The workshop that debuted in 2010 and returned to the program in 2011 was replaced for the new workshop Music & Performance in 2012. As 2013 marks the year of Papiamento producers of Art Rules Aruba decided that the art of words, literature and the performance of it should find its place back into the program and celebrate the 10 years of Papiamento with this years ARA students.

"Our native language which became inferior to Dutch, be-

cause of the island's colonial history, made its way into government in the 50s then moving into our schools in the 80s. However, Papiamento did not become an official language in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also known as UNESCO until 2003. We believe that this is a great time to celebrate our own culture and bring it back to Art Rules," stated by the Pancake Gallery.

As Art Rules Aruba is all about education based on new perspectives in combination with local heritage the program wants to celebrate this milestone with its students by re-introducing Rap & Poetry and build a curriculum for students that teaches young Aruban teens to be proud of their language and that Rap or Poetry is just as significant in Papiamento as in any other language. Students of the rap & poetry workshop will learn traditional rules of the art of poetry as well as more contemporary forms of free writing. This workshop will further explore the writing of short stories and monologues in both English and Papiamento.

To achieve these goals the Pancake Gallery introduces a



Rosabelle Illes

great combination of knowledge, talent and skills with this year's teachers, Rosabelle Illes and Breis.

Breis is Hip Hop lyricist based in London. He confidently draws from his Nigerian musical heritage and also incorporates Yoruba and Pidgin English into some of his lyrics. Breis is also the CEO of Student of Life Ltd, a Hip Hop education company passionate about inspiring young people to explore their creativity and improving their literacy skills. In 2011, Breis published the UK's first interactive rap book entitled 'Brilliant Rappers Educate Intelligent Students'.

Continued on page 5



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Team Aruba hopes to claim the coveted pole position again



UNION-- At the last stop on the ADRL tour Team Aruba was having one of the best outings of their career. They secured the number one qualifying spot early and hung onto it for the duration. Unfortunately, Mother Nature moved in in the form of rain and stopped Team Aruba from defending their position in eliminations. Now, with the ADRL Spring Drags IV approaching this weekend, the Team hopes to claim the coveted pole position again, and this time take it

to the winner's circle.

"Our last race went awesome. It was the first time we ever qualified number one in an Extreme Pro Stock field. The unfortunate part was that the event got cancelled due to the rain that plagued Sunday racing," said Trevor.

"We are coming into this race as 'defending' number one qualifier, and we still have unfinished business, so to speak. Our goal is to finish what we started in Valdosta here at this race."

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EU raids oil majors in probe over possible price fixing

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission has carried out surprise inspections at several major oil companies over possible price fixing in breach of EU anti-trust rules.

The Commission did not name any of the companies involved in Tuesday's raids but British energy giant BP, Shell and Norway's Statoil said that their offices had been visited.

The Commission statement explained that even small distortions of the market could have a "huge impact on the prices of crude oil, refined oil products and biofuels purchases and sales, potentially harming final consumers".

In a statement, BP confirmed it "is one of the companies that is subject to an investigation ... We are cooperating fully with the investigation and unable to comment further at this time."

A Shell spokesman said: "We can confirm that Shell companies are currently assisting the European Commission in an inquiry into trading activities."

Norwegian firm Statoil and Platts, the world's leading oil price reporting agency, also both confirmed they were being investigated.

"The suspected violations are related to the Platts' Market-On-Close (MOC) price assessment process, used to report prices in particular for crude oil, refined oil products and biofuels, and may have been ongoing since 2002," said Statoil, which is 67 percent owned by the Norwegian government.

The European Commission said officials "carried out unannounced inspections at the premises of several companies active in and providing services to the crude oil, refined oil products and biofuels sectors."

"These inspections took place in two EU member states," a statement said, adding that one country in the European Economic Area (EEA) -- of which Norway is a member -- was also involved.

"The Commission has concerns that the companies may have colluded ... to manipulate the published prices for a number of oil and biofuel products," it said.

Additionally, the firms "may have prevented others from participating in the price assessment process, with a view to distorting published prices."

RBC Royal Bank's 4th edition of Art Rules Aruba...

Continued from page 4

He has toured internationally and shared the stage with artists like Black Thought, Nneka, Les Nubians, Fela Kuti's drummer Tony Allen, Angie Stone and Kim Burrell. In 2012 Breis was invited to speak at a TEDxYouth conference, the free knowledge international speaking conference that has featured the worlds most inspired thinkers from Apple's Steve Jobs to Bill Gates and a few more amazing ideologist's along the way.

Rosabelle Illes is an Aruban native Author and Poet who

published her first book of poetry entitled "Beyond Insanity" in 2005. Five years later, in December of 2010 she published her second book of poetry entitled "Spiel di mi Alma," this time in Papiamentu. In 2012 she created an Art Calendar entitled Wholism; where each month featured an illustration by 12 different artists accompanied by a short poem she had written herself. Aside from releasing her publications, she also continues to engage in various collaborative pieces and per-

formances in both the Netherlands and the Caribbean. Next to being an independent artist, Rosabelle holds a BA in Psychology and a minor in English Literature from Webster University and an MSc in Social and Organizational Psychology from Leiden University. She is currently a full-time PhD Candidate in Social and Organizational Psychology at Leiden University and like Breis, Rosabelle joins Art Rules Aruba as first time teachers.

It all starts on July 15th in

an intensive 2-week program at Abraham de Veer College. How to apply for this class? Simply go to www.artrulesaruba.com and read more about the teachers, the class and the program. RBC presents Art Rules Aruba 2013 is also powered by Aruba Airport Authority, Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds Caribisch gebied, La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, La Cabana Beach Resort, Playa Linda Beach Resort, Caribbean Palm Village Resorts and Marketing Plus.

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Nigeria police uncover second 'baby factory' in a week

LAGOS (AFP) - Nigerian police said yesterday they had found six pregnant teenage girls in a raid on a house and arrested three people suspected of planning to sell their babies.

It was the second so-called baby factory uncovered in a week in the west African nation.

"We acted on intelligence information and raided the house in Enugu (city) where we met six girls, under 17 and all pregnant, and freed them," police spokesman Ebere Amaraizu in southeastern Enugu state told AFP.

He said two men and a woman believed to be operating a child-trafficking ring were arrested during the raid on Monday and were cooperating with police.

Amaraizu said the girls had been "lured into the house with a promise of some money after" delivering a child.

"Investigation will unravel

the details. We have to know how they came about the pregnancy and where they came from," he said.

Monday's raid came five days after police in nearby Imo State freed 17 pregnant girls and 11 small children from a home in the town of Umuaka.

The girls, aged between 14 and 17, told police that they had been impregnated by a 23-year-old man who is currently in custody. The owner of the building is on the run.

Nigerian police have uncovered a series of alleged baby factories in recent years, notably in the southeastern part of the country, but the intended buyers of the children have not been established.

Arinze Orakwue of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) said the black market for the newborns includes those who want to avoid the legal

adoption system.

"It's cultural," he said, noting that couples in Nigeria who struggle to conceive often face social stigma and may not want to discuss their situation with an adoption agency.

"What is happening in those states is a dangerous development. It is simply a criminalisation of the child adoption law," he said.

He added that security agencies needed to do more to protect impoverished teenagers who may be persuaded to participate in such a scheme.

Human trafficking, including the selling of children, is the third most common crime in Nigeria behind fraud and drug trafficking, the United Nations has said.

In a human trafficking report released last month, the European Union identified Nigeria as the African country where the scourge is most common.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WHouse backs new press protection amid storm

Continued from page 1

The American Civil Liberties Union praised the move to revive the shield law, which failed in prior legislative efforts.

"The White House deserves credit, they should be commended for taking a proactive approach, but they should ensure that any bill that actually goes to the president's desk would effectively prevent what happened here," ACLU counsel Gabe Rottman said.

After the AP revealed the subpoenas on Monday, commentators and media organizations accused Obama's administration of trampling on press freedoms in its pursuit of government leaks and whistleblowers.

More than 50 media organizations signed a letter of protest of the US government seizure.

In a joint letter, the coalition said the seizure "calls into

question the very integrity of Department of Justice policies toward the press and its ability to balance, on its own, its police powers against the (constitutional) First Amendment rights of the news media and the public's interest."

The letter from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said that in the 30 years since the Justice Department issued guidelines governing its subpoena practice for media phone records, "none of us can remember an instance where such an overreaching dragnet for newsgathering materials was deployed."

Attorney General Eric Holder defended the action Tuesday, saying it was part of a probe into a security breach which had put "the American people at risk."

"That's not hyperbole," he insisted, dubbing the leak "very, very serious."

US urges Taiwan, the Philippines to cool tensions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday urged Taiwan and the Philippines to resolve a dispute after the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman, amid concern over rising tensions between its two allies.

Taiwan has slapped sanctions on the Philippines, including a ban on the hiring of new workers, and rejected an apology by President Benigno Aquino after Philippine coast guards shot dead the 65-year-old fisherman last week.

Washington also urged both sides "to ensure maritime safety and to refrain from actions that could further escalate

tensions."

Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou has insisted on a formal apology from Manila as well as compensation, demanded that the killer to be caught and called for talks on the fishing industry.

Maritime tensions are already high over rival claims in the South China Sea, adjacent to where last Thursday's shooting took place.

China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei all have competing claims to parts of the strategic and resource-rich maritime region.



NEW DELHI : AFP photo shows two drug addicts on a high as they sit on a sidewalk in New Delhi on May 15, 2013. Drug use in India is on the rise but there are no proper statistics on the number of people suffering from this 'hidden disease' with the first and last national survey on drug abuse carried out in 2000-01 and showing a figure of 70 million drug users in the country.

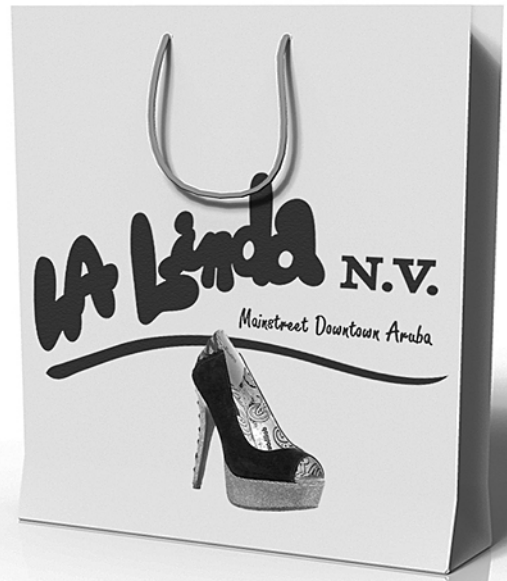


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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Haiti's Duvalier calls for ex-leaders' conference

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Ex-Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who is facing charges of corruption and human rights abuses, called yesterday for a conference of former heads of state to forge a national consensus.

"I remain convinced of the urgent need for unity, and only a national consensus can enable us to overcome our countless challenges," Duvalier wrote in a statement.

On Tuesday, President Michel Martelly voiced support for the idea of a meeting of former leaders of the island.

"We need to stop fighting

against ourselves. We are at war against each other and this is preventing the country from moving forward," Martelly told a crowd of several thousand in a speech marking his two years in power.

Duvalier welcomed Martelly's comments.

"I have closely followed the president's remarks made on May 14 and I have learned with satisfaction of his desire for a meeting of former heads of state," he wrote.

Duvalier, 61, ruled Haiti from 1971 until his ouster in a popular revolt in 1986. He returned from exile in France two years ago.

Peru foreign minister resigns over Venezuela, Ecuador

LIMA (AFP) - Peruvian Foreign Minister Rafael Roncagliolo resigned yesterday following diplomatic spats with Ecuador and Venezuela, and will be replaced by Justice Minister Eda Rivas, a government source told AFP.

Roncagliolo, a leftist academic and journalist with no diplomatic experience, is resigning "for health reasons," an official at the presidential palace in Lima said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Rivas, a 61-year old attorney, becomes Peru's first female foreign minister.

Roncagliolo's tenure was marked by diplomatic clashes with the leftist governments of Venezuela and Ecuador.

On May 3 Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro told Roncagliolo to "not get involved in Venezuela's internal affairs" when the latter announced that Peru would hold a summit to urge Caracas to talk with their political opposi-

tion, which challenged the results of the April 14 presidential election.

Regarding Ecuador, two women claimed they were accosted by Quito's ambassador to Lima, Rodrigo Riofrio, at a city supermarket.

Peru demanded that Ecuador withdraw Riofrio, but Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa refused.

Both countries withdrew ambassadors, and the situation was eventually resolved when Ecuador relented and named a new envoy.

Roncagliolo, 68, has led President Ollanta Humala's foreign policy since the leftist leader first took office in July 2011.

His resignation comes ahead of one of the most important events in Peru's foreign policy in decades: the International Court of Justice in The Hague's ruling on a lawsuit Peru filed in 2008 against Chile over their maritime border

Belize officials: Mayan pyramid razed for road fill

BELIZE CITY (AFP) - A construction company owned by a local politician demolished a 2,300-year-old Mayan temple in northern Belize to use the rubble as gravel for road repair work, authorities charged.

The ancient 30-meter (yard) high pyramid, which was reduced to a small mound of debris, was part of the Noh Mul ceremonial center located 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Belize City near the border with Mexico.

"This total disregard for Belize's cultural heritage and national patrimony is callous, ignorant and unforgivable. This expressed disdain for our laws is incomprehensible," Tourism and Culture Minister Tracy Panton said on Belize's Channel 7 television late Tuesday.

The archeological complex, like all pre-Columbian ruins, was under the protection of the state even though it was located in a privately owned sugar cane plantation.

Noh Mul was the center of

a Mayan community of 40,000 people in the third century before the Christian era.

The pyramid's destruction was discovered at the end of last week, and authorities blamed the D-Mar construction company, which is owned by Denny Grijalva, a ruling party candidate for mayor of Belize City.

Grijalva has denied any knowledge of what happened.

Panton, promising a thorough investigation, said a report on what happened was being prepared and would be presented to authorities for action at the end of the week.

She acknowledged, however, that the penalties provided for under the law amount to no more than a \$10,000 fine, "which could never rectify the damage that has been done."



CARACAS -- Supporters of Venezuelan militant Illich Ramirez Sanchez, better known as Carlos the Jackal, took part in a demonstration in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Caracas yesterday. Carlos the Jackal, convicted of a string of high-profile terrorist attacks in the 1970s and early 1980s, returned to court on May 13, 2013 in Paris, France, to appeal his conviction for a series of deadly bombings in France.

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Health & Living

Indian medics conduct 'perfect' op on baby's swollen head



Little Roona before surgery

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Doctors carried out life-saving surgery Wednesday on an Indian baby suffering from a rare disorder that caused her head to swell to nearly double its size, in a case that aroused sympathy worldwide.

AFP was given access to film the surgery on 15-month-old Roona Begum, during which doctors used a surgical drill to pierce her skull before draining fluid from her head in an operation lasting more than an hour.

The youngsters' parents, who have spent the last month at the hospital on the outskirts of New Delhi, spoke of their joy and relief after the operation which doctors de-

scribed as exemplary.

"The surgery went perfectly, much better than expected," neurosurgeon Sandeep Vaishya said in an exclusive interview with AFP inside the theatre.

"It's definitely a success but it's too early to say what the quality of her future life will be like," Vaishya added.

Roona was born with hydrocephalus, a condition that causes cerebrospinal fluid to build up on the brain.

She was found in an Indian village last month living with parents who are too poor to pay for treatment.

Publication of pictures taken by an AFP photographer in the remote northeastern state of Tripura prompted

a hospital, run by the private Fortis Healthcare group, to offer to treat Roona for free.

Vaishya, who heads the hospital's neurosurgery unit, made a series of swift incisions along the right side of her head and stomach during Wednesday's operation.

He then used a drill to pierce her skull before inserting a shunt, catheter and valve.

Doctors were then able to drain the fluid out of her head and towards her abdomen where it could be absorbed easily into the bloodstream.

Her father 18-year-old Abdul Rahman, who was too nervous to speak to the doctors on the morning of the operation, said he was "hugely relieved" that the surgery was successful.

"My wife and I were both so worried this morning. But now when the doctor says everything went well, I feel hugely relieved. It's been a stressful wait," Rahman told AFP.

When Roona was born, local doctors told her parents to take her to a private hospital in a big city but the costs were too high for Rahman, an illiterate labourer who earns 150 rupees (\$2.75) a day.

Roona's condition had caused her head to swell to a circumference of 94 centime-

tres (38 inches), putting pressure on her brain and making it impossible for her to sit upright or crawl.

On admission, Vaishya estimated her head weight amounted to half her total weight, leading him to believe that her body would struggle to absorb all the liquid if a shunt procedure were carried out immediately.

So he decided to drain the fluid from her head into an external plastic bag and continued the process until the circumference had shrunk to about 60 centimetres, allowing him to perform Wednesday's surgery.

Roona regained consciousness soon after the surgery. The sight of her bruised and bandaged head provoked her mother, 25-year-old Fatema Khatun, to sob inconsolably until Vaishya reassured her of the operation's success.

Vaishya told AFP the child would need further surgery to reduce the size of her head.

"While the shunt will keep the head from getting bigger, the head is still too large at the moment. We will remodel her skull, move the bones and fix them with plates to reduce her head size so she can grow normally," he said.

The shunt surgery is the

most common treatment for hydrocephalus, a condition that affects about one in every 500 children, according to the US government's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

"Her neck muscles are very underdeveloped, so she will need more nutrition and extensive physiotherapy to make her stronger. Her body will have to grow strong so she can learn to sit up and move about and live a normal life."

The pictures of Roona prompted an outpouring of support worldwide with prospective donors contacting AFP and other news organisations, enquiring how they could contribute to a fund for her and her family's welfare.

Two Norwegian college students, Jonas Borchgrevink and Nathalie Krantz, started an online campaign that raised \$52,000 to help her family and fund any future aftercare.

The students told AFP they have already established contact with a local media website in Tripura that will help send the money to the family.

The website for donations can be viewed at www.my-goodact.com/collectiondetailperson.php?id=212.

Sci-Tech

New Yorker launches online anonymous tip system

NEW YORK (AFP) - The New Yorker magazine on Wednesday unveiled a new online system for anonymous whistleblower tips, based on technology developed by the late Internet activist Aaron Swartz and a former hacker.

The system called Strongbox was unveiled amid an uproar in the news media over the US government seizure of phone logs from the Associated Press, in a probe of a news leak which officials said threatened national security.

"This morning, The New Yorker launched Strongbox, an online place where people can send documents and messages to the magazine, and we, in turn, can offer them a reasonable amount of anonymity," senior editor Amy Davidson said.

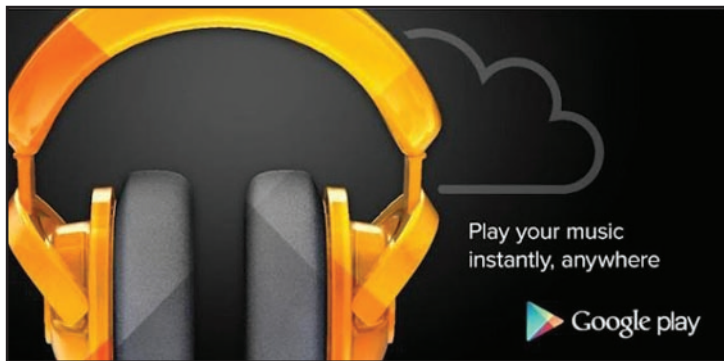
"The underlying code, given the name DeadDrop, will be open-source, and we are very glad to be the first to bring it out into the world, fully implemented."

The New Yorker said the system was designed to avoid putting media organizations at the center of investigations of news leaks.

"Readers and sources have long sent documents to the magazine and its reporters, from letters of complaint to classified papers," Davidson said.

"But, over the years, it's also become easier to trace the senders... Strongbox addresses that; as it's set up, even we won't be able to figure out where files sent to us come from. If anyone asks us, we won't be able to tell them."

Google debuts music service for Android gadgets



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google on Wednesday rolled out a music service for smartphones and tablets powered by its free Android software, in a ramped-up challenge to streaming radio firms such as Pandora and Spotify.

Google Play All Access combines the Internet giant's music catalog with users' personal collections in a radio station-style subscription service, according to Android engineering director Chris Yerga.

"Anything I am listening to in All Access I can easily turn into a radio station," Yerga said while unveiling the service at the annual Google developers conference in San Francisco.

"It allows you to explore radio without rules."

All Access launched in the United States with a monthly subscription fee of \$10 and will roll out to additional countries "soon," according to Yerga.

The California-based firm was offering discounts to those who sign up quickly for

the service.

The number of Android smartphones and tablets activated more than doubled to 900 million in the past year, according to Sundar Pichai, senior vice president of Android and Chrome.

Google's Android mobile operating system grabbed three out of four smartphones sold in the world in the first quarter of 2013, extending its gains over Apple and its iPhone, a survey showed Tuesday.

More than 156 million Android smartphones were sold in the first three months of the year, or 74.4 percent of the global total. That compared with 56.9 percent in the same period a year ago.

Google shares leapt to a new all-time high Wednesday, topping \$900 for the first time, as the Internet giant opened its developers' conference.

Last week, Google's YouTube unveiled its first paid subscription channels in a long-anticipated move to challenge streaming services like Netflix.

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Cornstarch proves to be worth its weight in gold

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists said Tuesday they have found a way to extract gold from ore using a seemingly unlikely pantry item -- cornstarch.

Traditional leaching employs poisonous cyanide to dissolve and extract the gold locked up in mineral ore -- but the method is polluting and controversial.

Despite being banned in several countries, it is still used to extract more than 80 percent of gold around the world.

Now an international team of scientists said they have accidentally stumbled upon an alternative while doing simple test tube chemistry experiments.

One of the team, Zhichang Liu, mixed a sugar named alpha-cyclodextrin, which is derived from cornstarch, with dissolved gold salt in the hopes of creating some sort of three-



dimensional cubic structure.

Though initially disappointed when his experiment failed, Zhichang soon realised he may have discovered something potentially more lucrative, according to the study published in Nature Communications.

"Zhichang stumbled on a piece of magic for isolating gold from anything in a green way," wrote the team.

"We have replaced nasty reagents with a cheap, biologically friendly material derived from starch."

The method could, for example, be used to remove gold

from consumer electronic waste -- a potential boon with gold prices having increased four-fold over the last decade.

Several spills have been recorded over the years from mining sites that use cyanide leaching -- putting human lives and the environment at risk.

While Europe allows the use of cyanide in mining, some countries like Germany, Czech Republic and Hungary have outlawed it and in 2010, the European Parliament called for these national bans to extend to the continent as a whole.

"The elimination of cyanide from the gold industry is of the utmost importance environmentally," study leader Fraser Stoddart of Northwestern University's chemistry department said.

The new alternative, alpha-cyclodextrin, is "very cheap and easy to handle", he told AFP.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Egyptian snakes
5. Aykroyd of "Soul Man"
8. Half a fly
11. "Huh?"
12. Self
13. Paydirt contents
14. Identifying symbol
15. Mineo or Maglie
16. Cut grain
17. Ridges

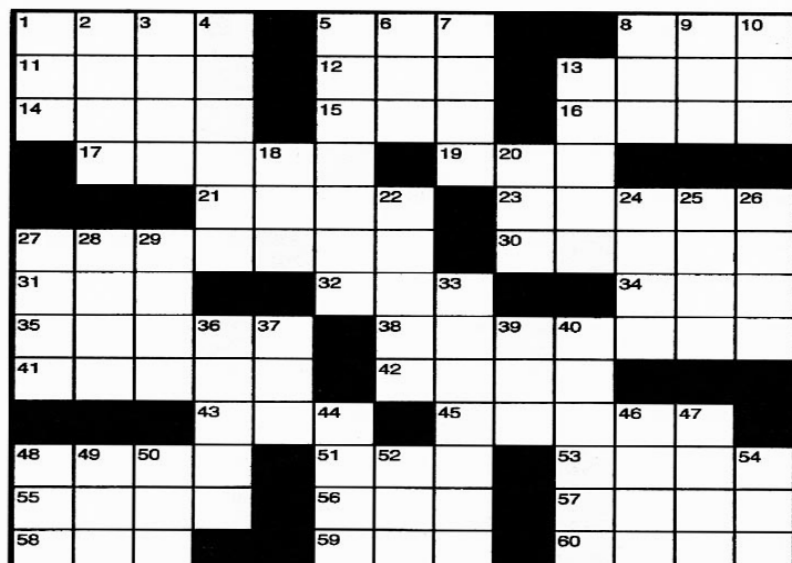
19. Promos
21. Constantly
23. Ritter and Travolta
27. Entrap
30. Nosy one
31. Not cooked
32. Ascot, e.g.
34. Harper Valley gp.
35. Rome's land
38. Moving mass of ice
41. Shyer
42. Poet Ogden
43. Mule's cousin
45. Melts
48. Unbiased
51. Friend (Fr.)
53. Fish market purchase
55. Lendl of tennis

56. Junior
57. Quicksand
58. Emeril's exclamation
59. Piglet's parent
60. Musial of baseball

DOWN

1. Leather-puncher
2. Display
3. Knight's assistant
4. Filched
5. Mousse, e.g.
6. ___ Khan
7. Lopez's theme
8. Three, in Pisa
9. Bering, e.g.
10. Psychic's skill (abbr.)

13. Director Welles
18. Dam-building org.
20. Record players (abbr.)
22. Royal authority
24. Arizona Indian
25. Quick letter
26. Ship's mast
27. Musician Clapton
28. Alliance acronym
29. Rock back and forth
33. Making very happy
36. Get the facts
37. Parts of centuries (abbr.)
39. Fireplace residue
40. Gorges
44. Window part
46. Jot
47. Lee of baked goods
48. Minor falsehood
49. A Gardner
50. "___ a Camera" (2 wds.)
52. Meadow sound
54. Hibernation spot



Answer on page 108



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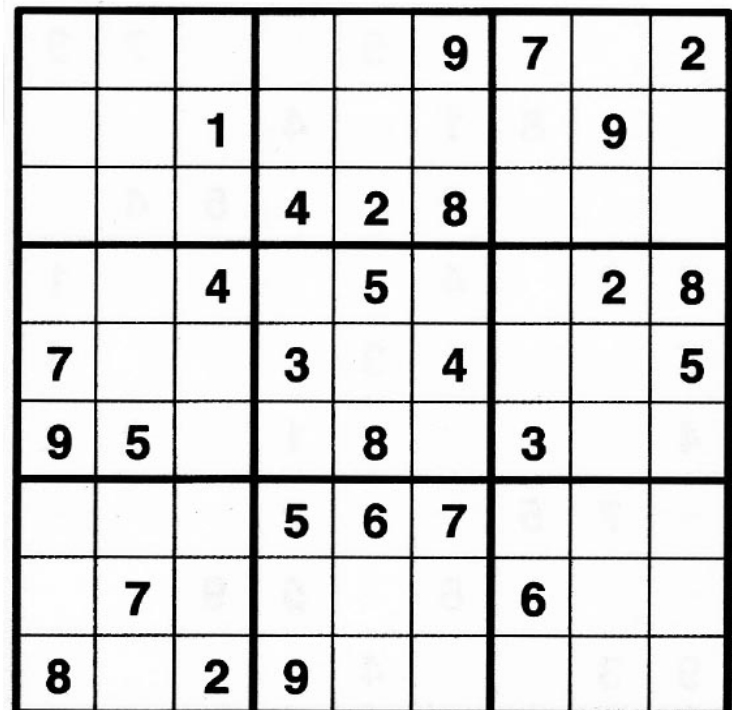
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2	9	7	6	1	8	3	5	4
1	8	9	2	7	8	6	4	5
6	8	2	1	9	5	3	1	7
7	1	5	1	8	2	9	5	6
5	9	1	7	6	3	8	2	4
8	2	6	9	5	1	7	4	3
9	1	5	8	2	7	1	6	3
3	6	8	9	1	9	1	7	2
2	7	1	6	3	1	5	8	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

IMF's Lagarde warns rising income gap hurts growth

WASHINGTON (AFP) - International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde yesterday decried rising income disparity, noting its harmful effect on global economic growth.

Lagarde, in a speech on poverty reduction in Washington, said the top 0.5 percent of the global population holds over 35 percent of the wealth.

"This has not gone unnoticed: the Arab Spring and 'Occupy movement,' though very different, were motivated in part by discontent with these trends," the IMF managing di-

rector said, according to the prepared text.

In the United States, where the Occupy Wall Street movement began in 2011, the richest 1.0 percent of the population holds 18 percent of all pre-tax income, compared with a share of 8.0 percent 25 years ago, she said.

"Rising income inequality is a growing concern for policymakers around the world," she said, adding that the IMF had begun to look more closely at the issue and its effect on the global economy

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
05/15/2013	Code			
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.72	1.74	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.64	2.69	2.75
Switzerland	CHF	183.11	183.83	184.63
Netherlands	EUR	227.04	229.11	231.42
Sweden	SEK	25.67	26.39	27.19
Denmark	DKK	29.77	30.49	31.29
Norway	NOK	29.41	30.13	30.93
Japan	JPY	171.95	173.52	175.26
(per 10,000)				

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IMF releases first bailout funds for Cyprus

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund approved yesterday a \$1.33 billion (1.0 billion euro) bailout loan for Cyprus and released the first \$110.7 million to the Cypriot government.

The loan is part of a combined \$13 billion (10 billion euro) emergency financing deal

set by the IMF and the European Stability Mechanism that aims to support the government as it seeks to stabilize the ravaged Cypriot banking sector.

The announcement came two days after the ESM, the European Union's new financial stability backstop, handed over the first two billion euros

of loans agreed under the controversial Cyprus aid deal.

The deal was set in March after the Cypriot government agreed to force depositors and bondholders in Cyprus's leading banks to take huge losses in order to keep the country's banking system from imploding.

Aruba Central Bank launches coins to celebrate the installation of King Willem-Alexander

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba has launched two new coins which celebrate the installation of King Willem-Alexander on the April 30. The Prince of Orange became both the Dutch and Aruban head of state upon the official abdication of his mother Queen Beatrix on that day. Willem-Alexander became Aruba's second head of state as an independent nation which was obtained in 1986.

The two coins, one gold and one silver, are struck at the Royal Dutch Mint and have denominations of 10 and 5 Aruban florins respectively. The two coins share the same design with the new King facing towards the right in contrast to the former Queen facing to the left as is Dutch tradition with the portraits on coinage.

The reverse design includes the Aruban coat of arms which is positioned towards the upper left half with a crown placed towards the lower right half. The denominations of "5 Florin" or "10 Florin" are seen just below both emblems. The date of the King's investiture



"30 APRIL 2013" is positioned above the crown and the text "ARUBA VERWELKOMT ZIJN NIEUWE KONING" (Aruba welcomes its new King) is placed below the crest in four lines. Both gold and silver coins share the same reverse design.

For more information please visit the Royal Dutch Mint website at: <http://www.knm.nl/Konings-Tientje/nl/page/751/>

Information is offered in Dutch - orders only with a European destination can be fulfilled.

Denomination	Metal	Weight	Diameter	Quality	Mintage
5 Florin	.925 fine silver	28.2 grams	38.6 mm.	Proof	2,000 pieces
10 Florin	.999 gold	1.24 grams	13.9 mm.	Proof	750 piece



A recent handout photo released on May 14, 2013 by German energy supplier Amprion shows an employee sitting in front of a giant board displaying the electrical network at the power operator in Pulheim, western Germany. Berlin decided in March 2011 to permanently switch off Germany's eight oldest nuclear reactors and to close by 2022 nine others currently online in the wake of Japan's massive March 11 Fukushima nuclear disaster. (AFP)

Italy places 30-year bond in four-year first

MILAN (AFP) - Italy yesterday placed a 30-year bond, the first time it has done so since September 2009, which should help the country spread out the repayment period of its massive debt.

The Italian Treasury raised 6 billion euros (\$7.7 billion) at a yield of 4.985 percent, according to an economy ministry statement.

Italian media said bids for the bonds had totalled more than 12 billion euros.

The return to issuing such long-term bonds shows that "Italy, thanks to the austerity cure that ensures the consolidation of its public finances and the safety nets of the ECB and ESM, is no longer perceived as a systemic risk," the business daily Il Sole 24 Ore said on its website.

The European Central Bank has pledged to intervene massively in the bond markets if

necessary for eurozone governments implementing recovery plans, while the European Stability Mechanism institutionalises the bailout mechanisms for the eurozone.

The Bank of Italy said Tuesday that the country's debt had risen to a new record of 2.03 trillion euros.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	O	A	P	I	R	A	Q	A	O	L
A	N	D	I	R	A	G	U	N	B	A
N	O	S	E	O	N	E	A	T	O	O
		C	N	N		F	L	E	E	S
V	I	D	E	O	S	O	F	A		
E	V	E		T	H	O		B	O	A
R	E	P		S	E	N	S	E	R	U
A	S	P	S	M	I	T	T	A	D	A
		E	P	I	C		A	D	L	I
R	O	M	E	O		A	L	A		
E	K	E		R	S	V	P		T	O
E	R	A		C	H	A	T		E	R
F	A	N		H	E	N	S		R	B

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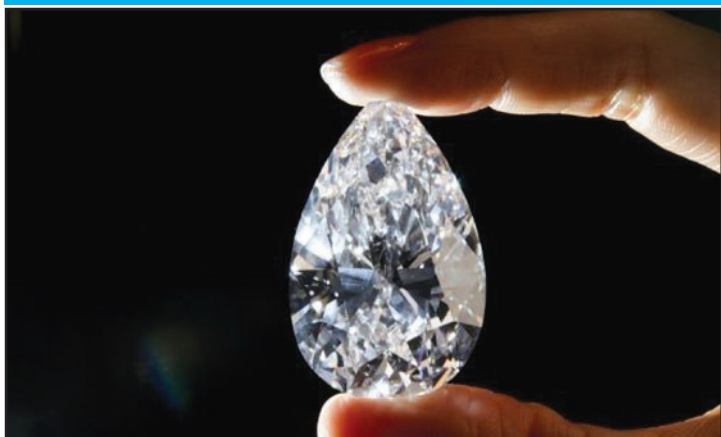
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Perfect colourless diamond auctioned for record \$23.5mn



GENEVA (AFP) - A new colourless, pear-shaped diamond weighing 101.73 carats raked in a record 23 million Swiss francs (\$23.5 million, 18.5 million euros) at a Christie's auction in Geneva late Wednesday.

The price, which does not include tax or commission, is the highest ever paid for a flawless colourless diamond, according to the auction house, which had hoped the gem would go for \$30 mil-

lion.

"Twenty-three million (Swiss) francs! Your last chance! Twenty-three million, sold!" Francois Curiel, the head of Christie's jewellery division shouted, clinching the deal before some 150 people gathered for the auction at a luxury Geneva hotel.

Including tax and commission, the total ticked in at \$26.7 million, Christies said after the sale of the stone, which is the largest diamond in its category ever to go under the hammer.

The American Institute of Gemology has handed the gemstone the top colourless grade "D" and the best clarity grade, "flawless", which is characterised by its "absolute symmetry", according to Christies.

In the rough, the diamond was 236 carats when it was extracted from the Jwaneng mine in Botswana, before it was meticulously sculpted for 21 months, Christie's said.

Wednesday's auction marked the first time the rock goes on sale, and the buyer will have the privilege of naming it.

Wednesday's sale marked the highest price ever paid for a flawless colourless diamond at auction.

Sony to release 'Angry Birds' film in 2016

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Sony has won the global distribution rights to an animated film based on the hit game "Angry Birds," to be released in 2016, the entertainment giant announced Wednesday.

The film is being produced and financed by Finnish mobile gaming company Rovio, which has said the movie could result in it establishing an animation studio rivalling global giant Walt Disney.

Sony Pictures Entertainment beat several major studios to win exclusive worldwide distribution rights to the 3D movie, it said announcing a deal with Mikael Hed, CEO of Rovio Entertainment.

"Despicable Me" producer John Cohen and "Iron Man" executive producer David Maisel will work on the movie, scheduled for release on July 1, 2016, they said in a statement.

"Sony impressed us with their great attitude, determination, and professionalism," said Hed. "They convinced us that we have found the right partners and team to help us market and distribute our first motion picture."

"Angry Birds," which started in 2009 as a mobile game, has become one of the world's biggest entertainment

franchises. It involves using slingshots to launch little birds at fortresses built by green pigs.

Sony Pictures Entertainment chief executive Michael Lynton and chairman Amy Pascal said in a joint statement: "Every studio in town would love to add 'Angry Birds' to their slate."

"There are few titles out there that bring this kind of excitement, brand awareness and built-in audience to the table."

"We're thrilled to be distributing this film and we hope this is just the beginning of what will be a long relationship with Rovio as we look for ways to work on future projects together."

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For support of the Food Bank FPNC provides token of appreciation to Playa Linda



FPNC Indra Stamper with PL GM Jan van Nes

PALM BEACH - An initiative of the Playa Linda Beach, in raising funds for the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC) Food Bank, has brought accolades and appreciation from foundation staff. Indra Stamper, from

year-and-a-half.

As part of a continuous program in cultivating ways to provide community support, Playa Linda Beach Resort has instituted its donation program, in which timeshare owners and guests can pro-

"When guests arrive at the front desk, they know nothing of the program or the foundation, but our own passion for the foundation's excellent work comes across when we explain what it does for the community and how well it works to feed families and children most at risk. It is an important effort. If more resorts would join in, it would be ideal," explains Assistant Front Office & Reservations Manager Roosje Roos.

Front Office Supervisor Justin Cremony further notes that guests have never displayed a negative reaction to the program, and some guests have responded by donating even more than the suggested sum after reading the hand-out presented on check-in.



PL Front Office Staff with gift from FPNC

FPNC, recently presented a token of appreciation for Playa Linda's most recent donation, and for its continued, monetary support, which the Playa Linda has presented each month over the last

vide one dollar per guest night to support FPNC. It has yielded results, with visitors participating in the program and helping to raise funds to feed the community's most vulnerable individuals.

More information about FPNC is available at www.fpnearuba.com. Donations are welcome through area banks: Aruba Bank # 1000; Banco di Caribe #1000; CMB Bank #60001000; or RBC Bank #4419502. Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad's good works can also be followed through its FB account: FPNC Aruba.

In the photo, FPNC's Indra Stamper, c, presents a lovely print, with the foundation logo at its center, to Playa Linda's Roosje Roose, l, and Rolando de Cuba, of the resort's Front Office and Reservations Department. The print is of an original artwork by Jamaican artist Neetu, who specially created the work for FPNC to aid in its fundraising efforts, and ultimately, to help stock the shelves of the Aruba Food Bank.



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www.rexaruba.com

Aura Casino: "Where players win"



Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand is the place to play right now! The cash prizes are flowing out and happy players are leaving with big smiles on their faces.

Recently, Mrs. MaryAnn Zambrano was one of those happy winners. Mrs. Zambrano found her lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win."

She won the huge amount of **\$19,084,70** while playing on the brand new slot machine "Royal Match Progressive Blackjack."

Another happy winner was **Mr. Amar Levi**, who won a total amount of **\$1,610,76,-** at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

Mrs. Maria Koolman also decided to join the winners. Mrs. Koolman won a total amount of **\$1,061,79,-** playing the slotmachine "Outback Jack."

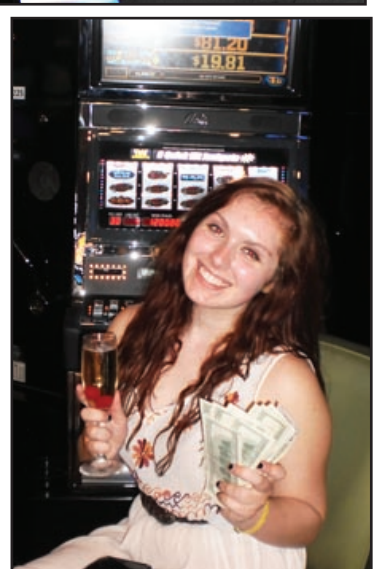
And the winning just continues at the Aura Casino as **Mrs. Lorraine Brooks** also finds her lucky streak in the Casino "where players win".

Mrs. Brooks won a total amount of **\$1,693,65** at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

Mr. Walter was also another happy winner after walking away with the nice sum of **\$1,000**, won on the slot machine "Double Double Bonus Poker."

Mrs. Carmen Tavares also walked away with winnings after bringing down the slotmachine "China Shores." Mrs. Tavares won the beautiful sum of **\$1,061,84**.

Also winning was **Miss Zoe Codd** who found her lucky streak in front of the



slotmachine "Quick Hits".

Miss Zoe who won \$1,200,- was on vacation with her family for a week, and and stayed at the Occidental Grand Hotel

Staff & Management want to congratulate all the lucky winners and invite everyone to come and win at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand: "Where players win."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach.

Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!

SPORTS

Chelsea claim last-gasp Europa League triumph



AMSTERDAM (AFP) - A 93rd-minute header from Branislav Ivanovic gave Chelsea a stunning 2-1 victory over Benfica in the Europa League final on Wednesday as the London club claimed the trophy for the first time in heart-stopping fashion.

The game in Amsterdam seemed destined for extra time after Fernando Torres' superb 60th-minute opener for Chelsea was cancelled out by an Oscar Cardozo penalty, only for Ivanovic to net a dramatic winner with a looping header in stoppage time.

Club captain John Terry sat the game out with an ankle injury, but just as he had done after last season's Champions League final, which he missed through suspension, he donned his full kit to lift the trophy alongside fellow Chelsea stalwart Frank Lampard.

"It's a great feeling," said Ivanovic. "This team deserved this, because we have had a very difficult season and a lot of games."

Victory made Chelsea the first team to simultaneously hold the Champions League and Europa League titles, although they will relinquish their Champions League crown in 10 days.

More lasting is the statistic that they are only the fourth club to have claimed Europe's three major trophies -- including the now-defunct Cup Winners' Cup -- after Ajax, Bayern Munich and Juventus.

Chelsea's interim manager Rafael Benitez, meanwhile,

joins Giovanni Trapattoni as one of only two coaches to have won the trophy with two different clubs, following his 2004 success with Valencia.

"The players have worked so hard, all season. I am proud -- it was not easy. I'm really pleased, really proud."

The manner of defeat was cruel on Jorge Jesus' enterprising side and means that Benfica have now lost seven consecutive European finals since claiming their last major continental crown in 1962.

"The Benfica fans were better than the Chelsea fans," said Jesus. "They deserved a Benfica victory for their passion and their feelings and the patriotism they showed."

"This defeat is difficult for me because of the Benfica fans. For most of the 93 minutes, Benfica was always better than Chelsea."

Indeed, so authoritative were Benfica, and so lacklustre Chelsea, that only an apparent inability to shoot at the appropriate moment prevented Jesus' side from taking the lead before half-time.

Cardozo had a header ruled out for offside early in the second half, and although the call was correct, it was extremely marginal.

Salvio saw a header fielded by Petr Cech in the 59th minute, but within seconds, the ball was in the Benfica net.


It was a Chelsea smash-and-grab goal plucked straight from last season's Champions League textbook, but the lead was to last only eight minutes.

Cesar Azpilicueta handled

Salvio's header just inside the Chelsea penalty area and Cardozo drilled his spot-kick into the middle of the goal to claim his seventh goal in this season's competition.

Cech had to produce a finger-tip save to prevent a half-volleyed lob by Cardozo from dipping beneath the crossbar, before Lampard almost gave the game a fairytale late finish with a 25-yard pile-driver that hit the bar.

Extra time beckoned when the fourth official raised his board to show three minutes of injury time, only for Ivanovic to send a header arcing over Artur from Mata's corner and break Benfica's hearts.



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Murray faces French Open pullout, Nadal eases in Rome

ROME (AFP) - World number two Andy Murray admitted Wednesday that he could miss the French Open after a long-term back injury forced him to quit the Rome Masters.

"I'd be very surprised if I was playing in Paris," a subdued Murray said after retiring from a second-round start at the Foro Italico, handing a 6-3, 6-7 (5/7) win to Spain's Marcel Granollers.

Murray, who was celebrating his 26th birthday on Wednesday, said that pain in his lower left back, which has bothered him since late 2011, has been flaring recently, bringing on the Rome pull-out.

"I felt pain today, the same as in Madrid. I hit yesterday and played some points. But I was still sore today," added Murray, with the French Open due to start on May 26.

There were no such prob-

lems for Madrid Masters champion Rafael Nadal who began laying the groundwork for a dream seventh Rome title, hammering Italian Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-3.

Nadal owns five titles since making his return after seven months out with a knee injury.

The Spaniard, who has now won his 32nd match of the season against two defeats, will next play Ernests Gulbis, a winner over Serb Viktor Troicki 6-1, 6-1.

"Tomorrow I play against an opponent who is very dangerous," said Nadal.

In women's play, second seed Maria Sharapova, winner of the last two editions, started with a 6-2, 6-2 defeat of Spain's Garbine Muguruza.

Number three Victoria Azarenka was equally untroubled by Julia Goerges beating the German 6-2, 6-0.

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Vokoun, Penguins beat Ottawa in game one

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Evgeni Malkin had a goal and an assist and Tomas Vokoun recorded his third straight win since replacing Marc-Andre Fleury as Pittsburgh beat Ottawa 4-1 in the opener of their second-round series.

Russian forward Malkin, who had a point in all six games of the Penguins' first-round series win over the New York Islanders, pushed his playoff point total to 13 in seven games so far.

Backup Vokoun, of the Czech Republic, took over from starting goaltender

Fleury for game five against New York. He finished with 35 stops on Tuesday in front of a crowd of 18,621 at the Consol Energy Center arena.

"This game showed we can play better in the defensive zone," Malkin said. "The power play worked and the penalty kill was unbelievable."

In a Western Conference contest Tuesday night, Jonathan Quick posted 35 saves to notch his second shutout of the playoffs as the defending champion Los Angeles Kings blanked San Jose 2-0.

Canadian Chris Kunitz also notched a goal and an assist, and Paul Martin and

Pascal Dupuis scored singles for the Penguins, who finished two-for-four on the power play and also had a short-handed goal.

"It was a good start," said Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby. "The Senators have skill and created chances but we did a good job of playing the way we wanted to."

Colin Greening scored the only goal for Ottawa, who were coming off an physical and emotionally-draining five-game series victory over rival Montreal Canadiens in the first round.

Game two of this series is scheduled for Friday in Pittsburgh.

Mayweather highest-paid sportsman - report



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Unbeaten boxer Floyd Mayweather tops Sports Illustrated's list of highest-paid pro sportsmen for the second straight year, according to the list released by the magazine on Wednesday.

Mayweather stretched his perfect record to 44-0 with a 12-round unanimous decision over Robert Guerrero on May 4, the first fight in his new megadeal with Showtime television that guarantees him at least \$32 million per fight over six bouts.

The fight for Mayweather's World Boxing Council welterweight world title was the champion's first since serving a jail term for domestic violence last year.

In compiling its Fortunate 50 list, Sports Illustrated reckoned Mayweather would earn \$90 million in 2013.

Tiger Woods, who was number one on the Fortunate 50 every year from 2004-11,

falls to his lowest ranking ever at number five with estimated earnings this year of \$40.8 million.

LeBron James, the Miami Heat superstar who was recently named NBA Most Valuable Player for the fourth time in his career, is second on the list with projected earnings of \$56.5 million.

James becomes the first player in a team sport to be in the top two since former NBA star Shaquille O'Neal in 2004.

James's \$39 million in endorsements were more than any other US sports figure in 2013, Sports Illustrated reported.

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who didn't figure in the top 50 in 2012, shot to number three in 2013 thanks to a \$37 million signing bonus from his NFL team.

The magazine's list takes into account salary, winnings, bonuses and endorsements.

Argentina mull Messi absence



BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella says he is reviewing his options in case star man Lionel Messi does not recover from injury in time to face Colombia in a World Cup qualifier on June 7.

"It will be a good opportunity," to assess other options, Sabella told reporters.

"Hopefully, we can count on Lionel, and if that is so then that's great. Otherwise, it is a chance to see how the

team shapes up without him, even though we hope he will make it," said the former Sheffield United and Leeds player.

Barcelona's Messi is set to be sidelined for three weeks with a right thigh muscle injury, the Catalan club revealed Tuesday.

Argentina observers are keen to see to what degree the side can avoid succumbing to 'Messidependencia' as they look to host the Colombians and then travel to Ecuador four days later.

Argentina, seeking to land a third World Cup crown at next year's finals in Brazil, top the South American standings -- with their neighbours pre-qualified as hosts -- on 24 points, four clear of Ecuador and five ahead of Colombia.

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Pacers pound Knicks to take 3-1 series lead

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) - The Indiana Pacers are on the brink of advancing to the NBA semi-finals after beating New York 93-82 Tuesday, behind 26 points from George Hill and a dominant team rebounding performance.

Paul George finished with 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Pacers who seized a 3-1 stranglehold lead and can now wrap up the second-round series with a win Thursday at Madison Square Garden.

"We are making it tough for them," Hill said. "We wanted to play with physicality and don't give them any easy baskets".

Indiana displayed why they are the league's top rebounding team as they have outrebounded New York 188-142 in the series and 54-36 on Tuesday night.

David West finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds, Roy Hibbert grabbed 11 rebounds while Lance Stephenson chipped in with 13 points for Indiana, who are a perfect 5-0 at home in the postseason.

Hibbert also guarded the paint effectively by making three blocked shots.

"Everybody's all tied together on this team," George said.

The Memphis Grizzlies are the only other team not lose on their home floor during these playoffs.

Carmelo Anthony continued his disappearing act Tuesday as the Knicks star failed to score a single point in the fourth quarter of game four and fouled out with two

minutes left in regulation.

Anthony, who didn't make a field goal in the final quarter of game three, finished with 24 points on nine-of-23 shooting.

J.R. Smith is also struggling offensively as he missed eight of his first nine shots and finished just seven-of-22 from the floor for 19 points.

New York shot 28 percent (8-of-28) from three-point range after leading the league

with an average of almost 11 per game from beyond the arc during the regular season.

Hill said the Pacers have to prepare themselves physically and mentally for Thursday's game five.

"We have got to play with the same energy, intensity and passion and play like we are down 3-1. We have to think of it as an elimination game for us," Hill said.

"We've got an uphill climb. It is doable," said

Knicks coach Mike Woodson.

The Pacers closed the second quarter with a 13-4 surge that included a three pointer from Hill.

George drained a pull-up jumper and Hill's steal and layup in transition stretched Indiana's lead to 16-points. Anthony made a long jump shot in the final seconds, but the Pacers still led 48-34 at halftime.

Hill scored 14 of his

points in the third and drained a three pointer to give Indiana a 66-50 lead with 2:12 remaining in the quarter.

The Knicks cut that lead to 67-56 by going on a 6-1 run to end the third.

Early in the fourth Smith made a layup that cut the Pacers' lead to 69-61, but Indiana answered with a 7-0 surge of their own and were never seriously threatened for the remainder of the contest.

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